



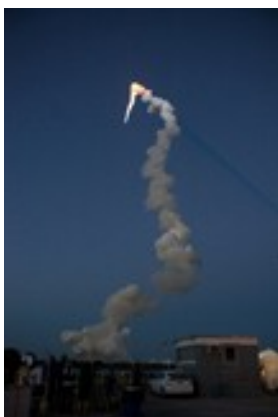
# countdown

March 17, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 20

## Discovery to dock today with ISS

## Next NOAA weather satellite gets final testing for April 28 launch



◆ **Launch Update:** Space shuttle Discovery is scheduled to dock to the International Space Station at 5:13 p.m. today. It will be carried live on NASA TV.

Following

Discovery's launch Sunday night, NASA's Associate Administrator for Space Operations William Gerstenmaier, during the post-launch news conference, commented: "This was pretty and each continues to amaze me - that and the team's precision to get to a great launch."

Shuttle Launch Director Mike Leinbach added, "I'm proud of the team that worked hard to fix the leak and the FCV [flow control valve] issue. Hundreds worked that issue and they deserve the rewards."

◆ **ELV Update:** The latest Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, or GOES-O, arrived at KSC on March 3 aboard an Air Force C-17 cargo plane. The satellite, developed by NASA for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, was transported to the Astrotech facility in Titusville, Fla.

On March 4, technicians removed the satellite from its carrier and placed it on a test stand to begin approximately six

weeks of final testing of the imaging system, instrumentation, communications and power systems.

The United Launch Alliance Delta IV core vehicle was erected on Launch Complex 37 at CCAFS and the two solid rocket boosters were attached. The spacecraft is scheduled to be transported to the launch pad April 14 and integrated with the Delta rocket the following day.

Launch of GOES-O is scheduled no earlier than April 28.

■ **NASA Science News** — NASA and U.S. Air Force test pilots have dropped a 50,000-pound "dummy" rocket booster on the Arizona desert -- and stopped it before it crashed. It's all part of NASA's plan to return to the Moon. You can read the full story at:

[http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/13mar\\_superchute.htm](http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/13mar_superchute.htm).

■ **March 2009 Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Screening** — The screening will be done at the KSC Occupational Health Facility from 7 to 9 a.m. Wednesday. No appointment is necessary. You must fast for 12 hours prior to screening (water only). Please take prescription medications as usual unless instructed otherwise for fasting by your health care provider.

The 2009 two-page CVD questionnaires can be picked up at any medical facility. The forms can be completed in and printed from FileNet at:

<http://ksboc-forms/KSCForms2/ref/KSC28-1010V2.itr> or printed as a pdf from the HEWP Web site at:

<http://hewp.ksc.nasa.gov/heart.cfm>. Please print each page separately.

Participation in the KSC CVD screening is recommended at no more than three times per year for optimal measurement tracking.

■ **NASA College Scholarship Fund Inc.** — The NASA College Scholarship Fund Inc. is a non-profit organization that awards undergraduate scholarships to qualified NASA dependents pursuing a course of study in science or engineering fields. Up to five scholarships will be awarded this year. Information on the guidelines for applying for the scholarship can be found at:

<http://nasapeople.nasa.gov/nasascholarship/index.htm>. Applications must be received by the corporation scholarship committee at JSC no later than March 20.

For additional details, please contact Debbie Bitner at 867-0510 or [Deborah.L.Bitner@nasa.gov](mailto:Deborah.L.Bitner@nasa.gov).

■ **Happy St. Patrick's Day** — The first recorded parade was New York City's celebration which began on March 18, 1762, when Irish soldiers in the English military marched through the city with their music.

*Countdown* is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to [anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov](mailto:anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov). For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of *Countdown* on the Web at: [http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown\\_toc.html](http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html).